श्री नीलोत्पल बसु: अगर यह सिग्नल भेजना इतना जरूरी था तो गवर्नमेंट पहले से इसे क्यों नहीं ले आई अगर यह सिग्नल भेजना जरूरी था तो पहले लाना चाहिए था...(व्यवधान)...

For the last three weeks, every morning, we have been going to the Chairtman's Chamber begging of the Government to please let us know what the Legislative Business was. If sending a signal was so politically important for the Governmemt, why was proper procedure not followed?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: He is quite right. *(Interruptions)* He is absolutely right. *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In any case, Sikander Bakht Saab, it will not be discussed till the next Session.

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: I have no objection but my point is... *(Interruptions)*...इस की बातें बिजनेस एडवायजरी कमेटी में कई मर्तबा हो चुकी है और वहां यह बताया जा चुका है कि It has been very sad that we have not been able to plan our business before the House met. It was a lapse. Now, of course, we are trying to bring as much business as possible in the closing week. It there is some objection, I do not have any objection.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to sent it to the Standing Committee?

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: इस के लिए तो हम ने सोचा भी नहीं है। इसे फिलहाल पोस्टपोन कर दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He has postponed it. That is good. I will ask the Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, to move his Resolution. आप के रिजोल्यूशन में एक्जैक्ट क्या है ताकि हम बिना डिस्कस के पास कर देंगे?

It is about enhancing an amount to Ministers.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION RE: DRAFT MINISTERS' (ALLOWANCES, MEDICAL TREATMENT AND OTHER PRIVILEGES) AMENDMENT RULES, 1998

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Madam, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the draft Ministers' (Allowances, Medical Treatment and Other Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1998 framed under section 8 and sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952 (58 of 1952), laid on the Table of the House on the 16th December, 1998."

The substance of this particular amendment to a rule is, it is a rule relating to the loan give to Ministers as advance money for buying a car and that rule says that the maximum amount which may be advanced to a Minister for the purchase of motor car shall not exceed Rs. 50,000 or the actual price of the motor car which is intended to be purchased, whichever is less. An identical provision is there in the Members' Salaries and Allowances Bill which some time back was enhanced from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. one lakh. The same amendment is sought to be made by this particular amendment in the case of Ministers. That is the sum and substance. Therefore, I commend it to the House to approve it.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have one thing to comment on. Home Minister Saheb, you have enchanced this amount from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. one lakh. Which car can we get with Rs. one lakh? It is no use.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am aware of it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It pretends that the Members are getting some largesse.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: This amount of Rs. 50,000 was fixed in 1987. ....(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is one more point. Why do you not relax rules for Government people to have a car of their own choice? All cars are being manufactured here. Do we have to go on travelling in cars which have obsolete technology and which consume so much petrol which is so expensive? It is a problme for the Finance Minister because he has to spend a lot of foreign exchange on it. Why can we not have more efficient and modern technology which is now available in the country?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam Deputy Chairperson, your suggestion would be certainly conveyed to the Government as a whole, particularly when the Finance Minister himself is here. ....(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We should conserve as much petroleum products as possible. I am sorry.

सिकन्दर बख्त साहब चले गए खफा होकर शायद, जो उनका बिल हमने अपने हाऊस में नहीं लिया।

His Ministry has got Maruti which is a Goverment-owned company. Why should we always travel by Ambassador Cars? That is beyond me.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम

†[شری محمد سلیم: میڈم۔

उपसभापति: जी आपको कुछ बोलना है।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल)जी मैडम, चूंकि यह जो रेजोलूशन होम मिनिस्टर साहब लाए थे और पूरे हाऊस की भी सेंटिमेंट यही थी, हम लोगों ने इसे पास कर दिया, लेकिन मैं सिर्फ आपसे एक जानकारी लेना चाहता हूं। पहले पास करते वक्त मैंने डिस्टर्ब नहीं किया, नॉर्मली जो पीस आफ सब-आर्डिनेट लेजिस्लेशन होता है, जो ड्राफ्ट नोटिफिकेशन वगैरह होते है रूल के, उन्हें हाऊस के पास करने की जरूरत नहीं होती। एक बार अगर हाऊस की टेबल पर ले हो जाए और जो स्टिपुलेटिड टाइम होता है उसके अंदर अगर कोई ओब्जेक्शन वगैरह कुछ नहीं हुआ तो वह एप्रूव हो जाता है। ऐसा समझा जाता है। तो ऐसी क्या स्पेशल बात हो गई कि इसे यहां रखकर पास करवाना पड़ा। इस बारे में मैं आपसे जानकारी चाहता था।

†[شری محمد سلیم: جی میڈم۔ چونکہ یہ جو ریزولیوشن ہوم منسٹر صاحب لائے تھے اور پورے ہاؤس کی بھی اسینٹمنٹ یہی تھی۔ ہم لوگوں نے اسے پاس کر دیا۔ لیکن میں صرف آپ سے ایک جانکاری لینا چاہتا ہوں۔ پہلے پاس کرتے وقت میں نے ڈسٹرب نہیں کیا۔ نارمل جو پیس آف سب آرڈینیٹ لیجسلیشن" ہوتا ہے۔ جو ڈرافٹ نوٹیفکیشن وغیرہ ہوتے ہیں رول کے۔ انھیں ہاؤس میں پاس کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہوتی۔ ایک بار اگر ہاؤس کی ٹیبل پر رکھ جائے اور جو اسٹیپولیٹیڈ ٹائم ہوتا ہے اس کے اندر اگر کوئی آبجیکشن وغیرہ کچھ نہیں ہوا تو وہ اپروو ہو جاتا ہے ایسا سمجھا جاتا ہے۔ تو ایسی کیا اسپیشل بات ہو گئی کہ اسے یہاں رکھکر پاس کرانا پڑا۔ اس بارے میں آپ سے جانکاری چاہتا تھا۔]

उपसभापति: मुझे मालूम नहीं, यह यहां क्यों आया। एचक्रअली ऐसा कभी रेजोलूशन आया नहीं था, पर अब आ गया तो पास कर दिया है। उसमें क्या हो गया?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आशवाणी: नहीं नहीं, पर इसमें ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम० वेंकैया नायडु (कर्नाटक): कभी एनहान्स किया ही नहीं, रेजोलुशन कहां से आता।

उपसभापति: जी किया ही नहीं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI MD. SALIM: This is a subordinate legislation. ....(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would have expected that the last Bill, which came before the House with regard to salaries and allowances of the Members of Parliament, by mistake, had some lapses. The Minister of Parliamenetary Affairs this on the floor of the House that there were certain lapses. By mistake they could not put the provision regarding travelling of Members and their spouses. that has to be corrected

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Government has taken a decision in regard to that also yesterday. But that Bill was to be presented to the other House and for some reasons, the business of that house abruptly ended. Otherwise, that was expected to be passed today, including the problem that has arisen in respect of railway passes of ex-MPs. These two things were proposed to be done. But, somehow, we could not do.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In the IPG meeting the ex-Members of Parliament have complain about it. We have to take care of those people because they do not have much money. All of us are going to be ex-MPs some day. Secondly, ...(*Interruptions*)... I do not know. The Government has to decide it. ....(*Interruptions*)...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश): आर्डिनेन्स से हो सकता है क्या? अगर आर्डिनेन्स से हो सकता हो तो वह करना चाहिए। इससे बहुत प्रभावित हो रहे हैं जो एक्स-एमपीज़ है। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि यदि आर्डिनेन्स से हो सकता हो तो होना चाहिए।

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: So far as providing statutory sanction to railway passes for ex. Members of Parliament is concerned, the Government has already taken a decision. But, yesterday, we did not think in terms of any Ordinance because the House was still in session.

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THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can think of it now because they are really in trouble सैकिंडली आप [illegible] पहले यहां लाया कीजिए, हम बिल पास कर देते है, आप दूसरे हाउस में ले जाते हैं। महिलाओं के बिल के बारे में भी यही हुआ, आप यहां पहले आए होते तो पास भी हो गया होता।

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Regarding passes issued to spouses of Members of Parliament, I think, contrary to what we have decided here and what has been given in the Parliamentary circular which came to us, entirely different directions have gone from the Railway Board to all booking offices. You kindly look into it.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Even on that point, i.e., passes to spouses, I would submit that that has also been incorporated in the Bill accepted by the Government yesterday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. What he is saying is, it was already passed, but he order sent from the secretariat was misunderstood, or, misused.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It has been amended. They have amended in their own way. The Railway Board has amended it in their own way; they did not abide by our decision.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If there is anything, I will convey the same to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. ....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): For hon. Members — II A.C. or I Class. For spouses — I A.C. There is a lacuna. ....(*Interruptions*)... We can get it endorsed. ....(*Interruptions*)... For spouses-I A.C.; for Members — II A.C. or I Class.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam, I will look into it.

डा० (श्रीमती) उर्मिला चिमनभाई पटेल (गुजरात): अगर "स्पाऊज़" शब्द के बजाए "कंपेनियन" रहे तो ज्यादा अच्छा है।

उपसभापति: वह "कैपेनियन' ही है लेटैस्ट। It is spouse because Mr. Vayalar Ravi has a spouse. He is using that terminology. Those who do not have a spouse, as I said yesterday, can use their spice.

Now, we have before us the Customs Amendment Bill. I think, there is really nothing in it. So, we can pass it. ....*(Interruptions)*...

THE CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1998

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I think the whole house has agreed that there would not be any discussion on these two Bills. ....*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him agree. ....*(Interruptions)*... So, we can pass it. ....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): This should not be made a precedent.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not making any precedent. But, for your information, before the Minister says that, I sent for the Bill. I asked him to send it to me. It only seeks to change "three months" to "two months", That is it. There is no other thing. If you want to discuss any other point on customs, we will do it in the next session.

THE MINISER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam, I move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962 as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, Deputy Chairperson, as you have already explained, it is a very simple amendment. My colleague, the Minister of Commerce, had made an announcement, in the last session, in both Houses of Parliament, about extending some facilities to the exporting community. The Government is now taking upon itself the responsibility of reducing the period of paying drawback to "two months" from "three months" and if it goes beyond "two months", we are agreeing to pay them interest, as we were doing earlier, when the period was three months. That is the amendment. If there is any default on that, the same reciprocal arrangement continues. That is the simple amendment that we have brought-reducing the period from "three months" to "two months".

The question was proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the motion to vote.

The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Customs Act, 1962, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Madam, I have a point to make.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me finish. Why are you interrupting in between?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: This may be the last point of the session....*(interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. SALIM: As you have said, and as the hon. Minister has also said, it was a commitment that the Government had made on the floor of the House and now it is converting it into a legislation. The only point I want to make is, today is the last day of the Session and now they are bringing this Bill. This reflects on the working of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Government. In the last session, they announced something with good intention; then, you have to convert that into an Act. You have taken the entire inter-session period, the entire period of the Session and, on the last day, at the last moment, you come with a piece of legislation. This should not be done.